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**U.S. Senators Schumer, Stabenow Highlight Need for
Legislation to Increase Access to Generic Prescription Drugs**

CBO Says Generics Bill Could Save Consumers Billions

WASHINGTON—U.S. Senators Debbie Stabenow (D-MI) and Chuck Schumer (D-NY) today spoke out about the need to pass legislation that will allow Americans greater access to lower-priced generic prescription drugs. The Congressional Budget Office estimates that the Greater Access to Affordable Pharmaceuticals Act (S.812) sponsored earlier this year by Senators Schumer and McCain (R-AZ) and cosponsored by Stabenow would save consumers \$60 billion over ten years.

“At a time when skyrocketing prescription drug prices are forcing millions of Americans to make tough spending decisions, this legislation will save consumers billions,” said Stabenow. “The Congressional Budget Office confirms what we have known for a long time: increasing access to lower-priced generics legislation is one sure way to provide Americans with much-needed relief from soaring prescription prices.”

The Greater Access to Affordable Pharmaceuticals Act (S.812) will close the loopholes in the approval process for generic drugs. This legislation would allow generic drugs to come to the market in a timely manner and dramatically reduce prices for consumers.

“On average, consumers must pay three times more to fill a prescription for a brand-name drug than they would to get a generic medication. I urge my colleagues to come together and act to allow Americans greater access to these unadvertised prescription drugs. The money saved by using generics would make a real difference in the lives of all those who struggle each day with high prescription prices,” said Stabenow.

The Greater Access to Affordable Pharmaceuticals Act (S.812) would:

- Eliminate the automatic 30-month stay handed to brand companies who file suit against a generic challenger. It would instead require these companies to allow a court to decide whether their case merits a stay.
- Require a name brand drug company to first prove to a judge that its case has merit before any delay is triggered.
- Prevent pharmaceutical company abuses by reducing incentives to list patents that are not truly innovative, but instead are intended solely to extend monopolies.
- Reform the so-called "180-day rule" by closing the loophole that enables a brand name company to pay a generic manufacturer to stay off the market, effectively ending competition.

As coordinator of the Senate Prescription Drug Task Force, Senator Stabenow has been working hard to lower prescription drug prices for all Americans. She is also committed to passing a comprehensive Medicare prescription drug benefit and a series of bills designed to address skyrocketing prices.